Funds for Rural Telephony Obligations in H.P.

1677. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sought from Planning Commission for meeting the Rural Telephony Obligations in Himachal Pradesh, particularly, in far-flung and backward areas in the State for the year 2002-03;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) how the resources would be met for the Rural Telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) For Himachal Pradesh no amount has been sought from the Planning Commission directly or separately for meeting the rural telephony obligations for far-flung and remote areas in the state during 2002-03. However BSNL has asked for reimbursement towards license fee and spectrum charges for meeting out social obligations for providing rural telephony in the country.

Waiting List for telephone connections in H.P.

1678. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in each telephone exchange in Kangra and Mandi Districts of Himachal Pradesh as on the 31st October, 2002 and since when;

(b) what steps Government have taken to provide telephone connections to the wait listed persons; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaints for non-availability of STD facility in Jaisinghpur Exchange; if so, what measures Government have taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The total number of persons in the Waiting List for telephone connections in Kangra and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh as on 31st October, 2002 are 15,202 and 4,247 respectively. The exchange-wise details are given in Statement I & II respectively. (*See* below).